

**Androscoggin Riverlands Park
Public Meeting -Turner
May 20, 2009
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
Leavitt High School**

Property History

- Turner Cove
- Smith and Allen Wilber
- Mill foundations under water
- Logging historic use

Current Uses

- ATV – LA Trails connect
- Snowmobile
- Hiking
- Biking
- Horse
- Camping for backpackers
- Trapping

Leeds parcel

- State owned
- Camping overnight
- Hiking
- Sawmill

Public Concerns

- Airport Sounds (Expected) ATV Sounds (Not Wanted)
- Emergency access along river (4 mile trek to the inner core of property)
- Additional boat ramp??? Needed (Ex. Higgins Sport Boat launch)
- Motorized boating on the river
- Hunting access will not be restricted
- Expand hike, bike & horse trails
- Volunteer base – local groups to maintain trails for use
- Friends of Bradbury
- Community assistance (volunteers for trail construction and maintenance)
- Land for Maine's Future (created original vision for property)
- Original vision of land use
 - Low impact uses
 - Concerns Conant Road access

- Not over developed (visions)
 - Cross country skiing
 - Keep rural
- No fee access (for local residents)
- Trail skill levels be posted (signage)
- Stay open to hunting (continued use)
- Trapping (continued use)
- Camping on river (continued use)
- Hunting safety (crossing uses)
- No ATV's allowed in Maine State Parks (only 2 parks with ATV use)
- Conant Road abutters (ATV disturbance)
- Boat-to or walk-to camping
- Economic traffic in Turner (southern entrance by-passes Turner businesses)
- Trail boundaries – signage
- Motorized/separate non-motorized trails
- More policing of trails (Conant Road complaints)
- Warming huts (for extending existing Androscoggin Trail System)
- Facilities throughout park (bathrooms)
- Upper road “park boundaries”
 - Markers / signage (trespassing on abutters land)
- Alternate park access (mid-parcel)
- Park signage for direction
- Blue trail
- Separate hiking/biking
- Local – hotel (none in Turner) Where do people stay?
- Non- “asphalt”/paved roads (requested)
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- ATV problem = issues access (don't know where to go)
- Annual maintenance funding available for ATV/Snowmobile
- Requests for bathrooms
- 3-sided shelter for hikers w/fire
- Recreational trail program
- Overnight camping – designated areas for tents

Financial Concerns

- Funding source for development – no \$'s yet
- Planning first to get \$
- Phasing a possibility
- Bond and grant money available
- Concerns – boat traffic at ramp (Town of Turner to pay for maintenance??)
- State park revenues returned to towns
 - 7% Portioned back to Towns

- Town of Turner (does not pay for)
 - “Wear –n-tear”
 - Roads
 - Trash
- Town of Turner does not own boat launch- FL & Power owned
- Accessing the park via the river by-passes a fee system

Original Vision for the Park

- Limited uses for park (limit uses of park to bike, hike, snowshoe, camp and fish)
 - No camping
 - Selective uses (limited)
 - Range park
 - Trails park
 - Homesteads (historical aspects)
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Sample parks in Maine:

- Mt. Blue (Center hills)(for trails)
 - Rustic/rural park
 - Multi-use trail
- West Branch of Penobscot (water access)
 - River access camping
 - Sensitive to wildlife

Why do we need a state park?

- Unique park character
- 40% of population within 30 miles
- Androscoggin Corridor Development
- Active stewardship presence
- Bass tourney’s very popular (parking issues)
- Non-traditional park (free mind of traditional designs of the past)

Walk in camping or vehicular

No for

12-15 against

35-40 people in attendance